1/75 Rangers honored for combat heroics
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2010 Census
Return your forms by April 1

TF Marne celebrates Women's History Month
See Page 12A

THE FRONTLINE

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MARCH 25, 2010

Sgt. Rocky Puppet Show
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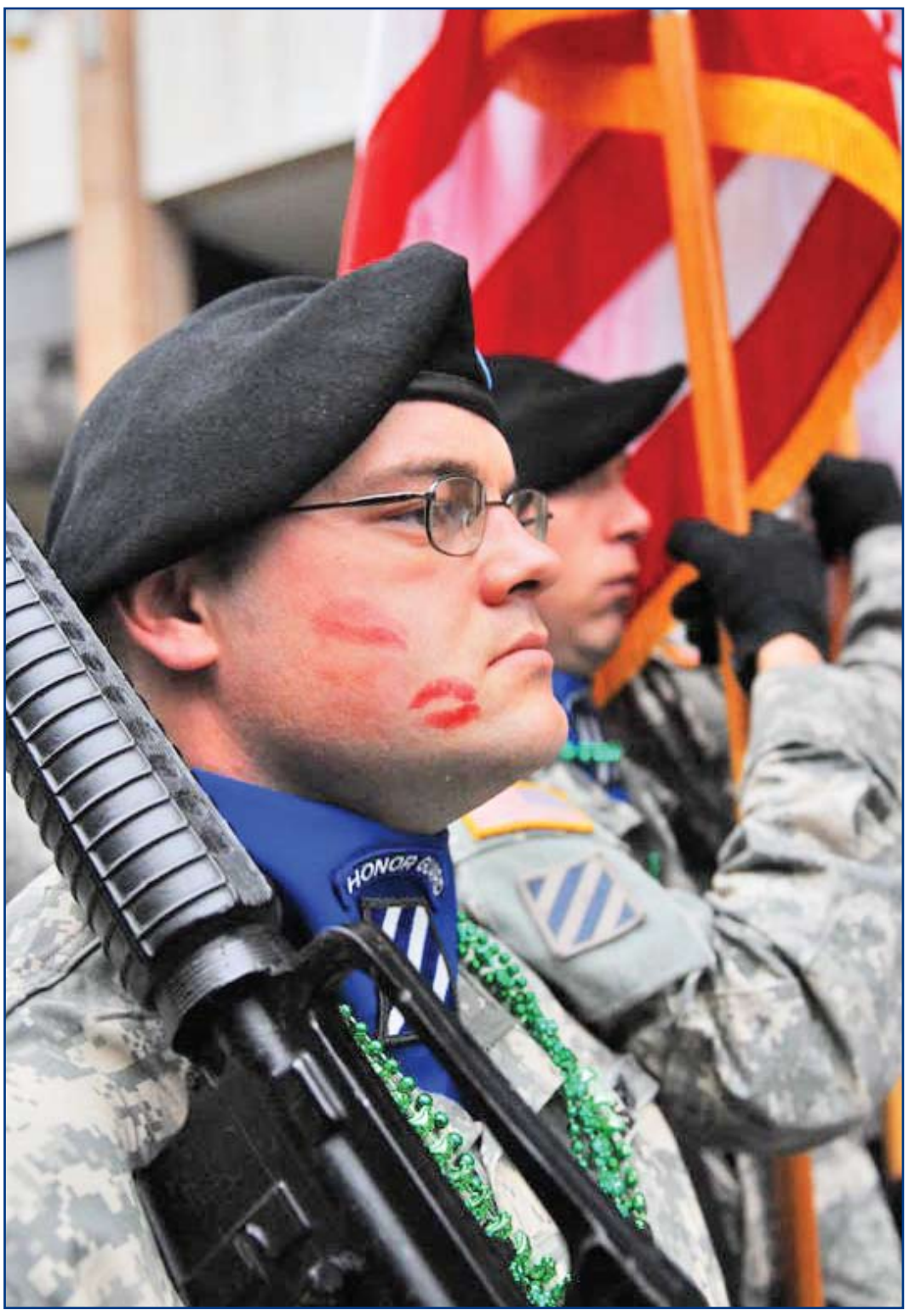

Sgt. Robert Schaffner Jr.

The 3rd ID Color Guard was not spared from the "kissing bandits" as they join other members of the Marne Division to celebrate Savannah's St. Patrick's Day Parade, March 17.

Deployed Soldiers remembered at St Patrick's Day parade

Sgt. Robert Schaffner Jr.
4th IBCT Public Affairs

Many Soldiers were missed at the 186th edition St. Patrick's Day Parade held in Savannah, Ga., March 17, due to the 3rd Infantry Division's fourth deployment to Iraq and combat mission in Afghanistan. However, these Dog Face Soldiers were certainly not forgotten. Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield Family Members, leaders and fellow Soldiers showed support to deployed troops by participating in the nation's second largest St. Patrick's Day festivity.

Family Members stepped up to the plate to ensure a successful showing of Marne pride and support for the Army Family. They walked in the parade carrying a banner that read, "United We Stand, Spouses of deployed military at Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield" to the cheers of about 400,000 spectators that crowded the parade route.

Jill McCabe, whose husband is currently deployed, came up with the idea to enlist Family Members of deployed Soldiers to march in the absence of their Soldier.

"St. Patrick's Day is my husband's favorite holiday," she said.

Jacqui Coffman said she also wanted to participate to honor the troops.

"The love and support back home makes it easier for our Soldiers to do their jobs down-range," she said.

Melody Sexton, spouse to 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team Commander Col. Charles E. A. Sexton, who is also deployed, expressed her gratitude for the "tremendous support from Division" for quickly coming to the aid of the Family Readiness Groups to make the parade sponsorship easily accomplished.

"It is a very humbling experience being here today," she said.

Though the majority of 3rd ID Soldiers are deployed, Stewart-Hunter Soldiers were represented at the parade, by the 260th Quartermaster Battalion; the 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment; 3rd Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team; the 385th Military Police Battalion; and 188th Infantry Brigade, First Army Division East marching through the streets of Savannah.

For more St. Patrick's Day festivities, see Page 3A

Gate construction steers motorists to alternate routes

Randy Murray
Fort Stewart Public Affairs

For several months, motorists have experienced delays while driving onto and off Fort Stewart, but according to Arthur Weston, chief of physical security with the Directorate of Emergency Services, those delays can be avoided if more drivers would choose alternate routes.

Gates 2, 3, 5 and 8 have already or are currently under construction. Yesterday, construction began at Gate 1 with completion of a new canopy taking until June 24. Knowing delays are inevitable as three lanes of inbound traffic are reduced to one, Westin advises motorists to choose a different route onto and off the base.

See GATE Page 2A

Hunter's own

Rangers get new commander

Nancy Gould
Hunter Public Affairs

The change of command for the 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment took place beneath the moss-draped trees of Forsyth Park in Savannah, March 18.

Dignitaries, guests and those passing by watched as the outgoing commander, Col. Brian Mennes, turned over his command to Lt. Col. Michael Foster during the colorful ceremony.

Colonel Mennes has deployed twice since taking command of the battalion on July 1, 2008. He said that leaving his Family of Rangers was a bittersweet transition for him and his wife and children.

"This is the best job in the world in one of the best towns in the world," he said.

He also acknowledged great things ahead in his new job as a brigade commander at Fort Bragg, N.C.

"It's a great day to move forward, but it's been a joy to serve with these men," he said. "They define what selfless service looks like. My only regret is that I didn't have more time to spend with them."

Now the opportunity to spend time with the Rangers belongs to the battalion's new commander, Lt. Col. Foster.

"I've looked forward to this command; it feels great to be here," said the new commander, about living and serving in the Savannah area and living near his Family in Stone Mountain, Ga.

See Rangers Page 2A

5/7 Cav spouses earn spurs, come together during deployment

Jennifer Hartwig
Fort Stewart Public Affairs

Camaraderie.

It's a word that is often thrown around, sometimes meaning little more than good-natured amiability. Its true meaning is something deeper, a bond between people that gives them strength. At no time is this camaraderie more important than during deployments. Not just for our Soldiers overseas but for those back home, who are trying to keep their lives together while their loved ones are in harm's way.

On March 22, the 5th Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Heavy Brigade Combat Team, held an event intended to bring spouses together while their Soldiers are deployed: their first 5/7 Cav. spouse's Spur Ride

"This was an opportunity for spouses to get together and get a taste of what their husbands do," said Capt. Noa Walker, 5/7 Cav. rear detachment commander. "While their husbands are gone, we need to help build their camaraderie."

There's that word again.

See SPUR RIDE Page 13A

Jennifer Hartwig

Amanda Canfield, wife of 5/7 Cav. Soldier Sgt. Brian Canfield who is currently deployed, low crawls through the mud at the Leadership Reaction Course during 5/7 Cav. spouse's Spur Ride, March 22.

From the CSMs Desk: Traffic violations that will get you handcuffed

Command Sgt. Maj. James Ervin
Garrison command sergeant major

I have got to tell you, you are all dear to my heart – Soldiers, Family Members, DoD Civilians and friends and supporters from in and around the local community. We are a collective Family drawn together by mission, purpose and pursuit of happiness.

When I hear that one of you have met with misfortune in one way or another, I am sincerely bothered. I join the senior and garrison commander in affirming that I will continue to do everything I can to help each of you avoid misfortune. However, there are some things that are strictly in your hands.

It's your individual responsibility to ensure that you have all the lawful and correct credentials in your possession before you get behind the wheel of your privately owned vehicle.

Worst of all, you could find yourself in handcuffs and apprehended by our law enforcers; this is especially possible if you are trying to enter Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield or any other military installation without the proper authorizing documents.

I am going to take the first step to ensure you don't meet with an unexpected misfortune in regards to driving on our military installations. The following are traffic offenses that are going to get you handcuffed:

- Driving under the Influence of Alcohol or Drugs
- Reckless Driving
- Suspended registration
- No Driver's License
- Suspended Driver's License
- Contraband Discovered during a Traffic Stop
- Outstanding Warrants for Other Violations
- Other Illegal Activity while Operating a Motor Vehicle

The process is offenders will be apprehended, placed in handcuffs and transported to the Police Station for processing. Your vehicle is normally towed to prevent traffic flow issues and for security purposes. If you are somewhat adventurous or just neglect to ensure your driver credentials and records are in order and you are stopped at the gate or by one of our police officers, I ask that you please cooperate with our law enforcement officials; they are simply doing their job.

1/75 Rangers awarded medals for combat actions

Nancy Gould
Hunter Army Airfield Public Affairs

About 800 Rangers from the 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment stood quietly in formation as they were awarded medals for combat actions by Maj. Gen. Joseph Votel, deputy commanding general, Joint Special Operations Command, and Col. Brian Mennes, the 1/75th Ranger Regiment commander, during a ceremony at Hunter Army Airfield, March 15.

Held at the Ranger Memorial Courtyard, the event recognized Rangers who have demonstrated sacrifice and valorous and meritorious achievements during one of the most costly deployments in the Global War on Terror during the peak of the Taliban insurgency. It marked the Rangers' 13th deployment to Iraq and Afghanistan.

Medals awarded included five Bronze Star Medals for valor; 28 Bronze Star Medals; 14 Army Commendation Medals and 18 Purple Hearts.

When Maj. Gen. Votel addressed the crowd of service and Family Members who had gathered, he acknowledged changes — such as new barracks and the newly constructed Ranger Memorial — in the battalion since he commanded it six years earlier. But he said some things about the battalion had not changed at all.

> "It's not easy to love a Ranger. They are constantly in harm's way."
>
> ***Col. Brian Mennes***
> Former 1/75th Ranger Regiment commander

"Rangers are still fighting the toughest battles," he said. "The battalion still attracts the best men our nation has to offer, and NCOs are still the backbone of the battalion, leading by example in combat."

One noncommissioned officer he acknowledged was Sgt. First Class Andrew Rubin.

"Despite being wounded, he selflessly saved the lives of two of his men by providing suppressive fire and medical support while leading from the front," said Maj. Gen. Votel. Sergeant First Class Rubin received a Bronze Star for Valor, a second Bronze Star for Meritorious Service and a Purple Heart. His valor also got him an invitation to President Barack Obama's State of the Union speech.

Nancy Gould

Private First Class Adam Bates is awarded the Purple Heart Award from Maj. Gen. Joseph Votel, deputy commanding general, Joint Special Operations Command, for wounds received in combat during Operation Enduring Freedom.

"This ceremony is about saying thanks for excellence and bravery," said Col. Mennes with tears in his eyes. "It's also about thanking Family Members for their support. It's not easy to love a Ranger. They are constantly in harm's way."

RANGERS

From Page 1A

Nancy Gould

The 75th Ranger Regiment Commander Col. Michael Kurilla passes regimental Colors from Col. Brian Mennes, outgoing commander, 1/75th Ranger Regiment, then passes them to incoming commander, Lt. Col. Michael Foster, during the 1/75th Ranger Regiment's change of command ceremony in Forsyth Park in Savannah, March 18.

Most recently, Lt. Col. Foster served in the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg as the commander of the 1st Squadron, 73rd Cavalry Regiment. Prior to that, he served in the Joint Special Operations Command directing a Joint Interagency Task Force.

"I've never experienced anything like this before," he said about Savannah. "I've only been here one week and community leaders have already contacted me, welcoming me here."

Other leaders at Hunter Army Airfield, where the 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment is based were on-hand at Forsyth Park to welcome Lt. Col. Foster to the community.

"We're a Family," said Lt. Col. Kirk Keepers, commander of the 3rd Battalion, 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment, whose aviators work closely with the Rangers. "Our Family includes special operations units and the entire Hunter community. We all work together jointly to accomplish the mission."

Hunter Army Airfield RISF/ Community Showcase door prize winners

Gift Bag, St. Joseph Home Health – Ryan Kirwan
Free Lesson, Summit Gymnastics – Claudia Smith
Army Gift Bag, Army Reserve Recruiting – Matt Davis
Army Gift Bag, 6th Brigade ROTC, Hunter Army Airfield – Anthony Mabrey
Flight Training Lesson, Coastal Empire Flight Training – Lori Warnock
Foursome Golf Game, Sapelo Hammock Golf Club – Nancy Schionp
Gift Certificate, GeoVista Credit Union – Hanna White
Gift Certificate, GeoVista Credit Union – Don Warnick
Golf Shirt and Bag, Webster University – Michael McGuire
Portfolio, Coastal GA AAA – Hubert Quiller
T-shirts, Pooler Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau – James Booth
T-shirts/Books, Fort Pulaski – Jacqueline Hall
T-shirts, Coastal Jazz Assoc. – Suzanne Aguilar
Gift Certificate/Gift Bag, Coastal Empire AUSA – Nazario Fabela

GATE

From Page 1A

In order to reduce traffic congestion at Gate 1, he said Gate 2 is being re-opened for inbound and outbound traffic from 5 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday. Gate 7 is also open for inbound and outbound traffic.

"What we're doing at Gate 1 is the same thing we did at Gates 2, 3 and 5," explained Weston. "We're building a new canopy that will extend all the way over the gate access points. Even though the old canopy (on Gate 1) was permanent, we had to take it down, and we're building a new canopy like the other gates so each of the gates will look somewhat similar."

With construction at Gate 8 expected to be completed by April 9, Weston said access onto and off Fort Stewart will be a little easier in a few weeks. Until then, however, motorists are asked to be patient, and when possible, choose a different route to work and back home.

Randy Murray

Construction is being conducted on Gate 1 to expand the canopy covering the inbound lanes, now through June 24. As a result, two of the three inbound traffic lanes will be closed at any given time. The "pass lane" of Gate 1 will not be affected and inbound traffic will be able to use this lane to enter Fort Stewart. To alleviate any congestion, Gate 2 will be re-opened for inbound and outbound traffic from 5 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Behind The Lens

Sgt. Patience Okhuofu, 260th Quartermaster Battalion Public Affairs

Soldiers from the 260th Quartermaster Battalion march in the St. Patrick's Day parade through downtown Savannah, March 17.

Stewart-Hunter Soldiers, Families march in St Patrick's Day Parade

Ready Support Battalion partner with recruiter for St. Patrick's Day Parade in Savannah

Capt. Kurt Van Slooten
188th Infantry Brigade Public Affairs

The 2/349th Logistics Support Battalion, from the 188th Infantry Brigade, First Army Division East, partnered with the U.S. Army Recruiting Company in Savannah to provide a St. Patrick's Day Parade entry.

The 2/349th "Ready Support" LSB, a US Army Reserve Battalion, provided two up-armored High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicles, a five-ton wrecker and a five-ton truck towing a Standard Army Tool Set trailer, as an example of part of their vehicle set.

The St. Patrick's Day celebration in Savannah is the city's largest annual celebration and the second largest St. Patrick's Day event in the United States. This was the city's 186th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade.

"My intent is for my unit to gain visibility in the community," said Lt. Col. Paul G. Shelton, 2/349th LSB Commander. "Since this parade is such a well publicized and attended event, I thought it would be a relatively inexpensive and effective way of letting the community know we are here and show them the means by which they can learn more about us."

The unit mounted a banner on one of their vehicles that identified the unit and let spectators know that they can see then on Facebook. Also included on the banner the local Army Reserve recruiter's name and phone number.

"I think this parade is an opportunity for us to in a small way, tell our part of the Army story to the largest possible audience," said. Lt. Col. Shelton. "We'll also be prepared to answer questions from any prospects and give their contact information to the local recruiter.

"Being in the parade is also a worthwhile training event for our maintenance section," said Lt. Col. Shelton. "Mechanics tend to get stuck in the motor pool during the rest periods between mobilizations. I see this as sustainment training for the next mobilization mission. We have a great maintenance section with highly professional leaders and Soldiers who rarely get the credit they deserve. I want to show them off to the community."

"I am excited to have been selected to participate in this event," said Sgt. 1st Class Mark Hill, 2/349th LSB motor sergeant. "I helped to select some of the best vehicles from our fleet to display in the parade, and I feel it is a privilege to represent my unit and the Army."

The 188th Infantry Brigade, along with the other training support brigades in First Army Division East, provides and facilitates theater-focused training for deploying National Guard and Reserve formations. Based out of Fort Stewart, the 188th has been training deploying National Guard and Reserve units for Iraq deployments continuously since 2003.

Sgt. Robert Schaffner, Jr.

Spectators at Savannah's St. Patrick's Day Parade show their support for troops, March 17.

Sgt. Patience Okhuofu

Stewart-Hunter Family Members show support for troops deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan by walking in the St. Patrick's Day parade in downtown Savannah.

Capt. Kurt Van Slooten

Sergeant Henry Williams, 2/349th LSB, 188th Infantry Brigade, receives St. Patrick's Day beads from a spectator in Savannah, March 17.

Sgt. Patience Okhuofu

Soldiers from the 260th Quartermaster Battalion march through the streets of downtown Savannah in the 186th annual St. Patrick's Day Parade, March 17.

Sgt. Patience Okhuofu

As per tradition, Soldiers receive kisses from female spectators throughout the Savannah St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Marne Faces Marne Places

DSTB Soldiers ensure security through night missions

Spc. Cassandra Monroe
135th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE SPEICHER, Iraq – When patrolling the streets of Iraq during the day, some might think Soldiers use the sunlight for their advantage.

However, Cpl. Jeremy Obermiller, a truck driver and infantryman with 2nd Platoon, Security Detachment, Division Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division, prefers the night.

"The night missions, compared to the day missions, are simpler, because in the day missions, you have more interaction with the Iraqi people and kids," said Cpl. Obermiller, a native of Blue Hill, Neb. "They don't try to disrupt your missions, but you have to try to deal with everyone as well as maintain your security.

"With the night missions, you don't have the kids … the Iraqi people, mingling around. You can get out there and get done what you need to accomplish and not have a lot of interference from the local populous. With the technology that we have today, we can see up to great distances. There aren't any hinders, because we still have good visibility."

Although Cpl. Obermiller and the rest of his team in 2nd Platoon provide security for escort missions and conduct presence patrols with Iraqi forces in broad daylight, night missions are a recurring event.

The most recent night mission for the team included a presence patrol near Arshadia Island, March 19.

"We provided overwatch of an area that usually fires indirect fire at Contingency Operating Base Speicher," said Capt. David Bright, the security detachment's officer in charge. "What's unique about the area is that it's an island, and the people that use it go to the island, launch their rockets, then leave. There is no way we can effectively cross the river, so we provide effective overwatch from the other side."

Before the mission, the team stopped by the Iraqi Police Department in the village of Al Sequor to let Iraqi Police know of their intentions for the mission and to see if they'd like to come along.

"All of our missions are joint presence patrols now," Cpl. Obermiller said. "We go out to patrol different areas to show that we're still around to try to deny any enemy activity that is going on in the area. We work closely with the Iraqi Police to keep them involved, so the local populace can see their own security forces out there.

"We're not trying to take control anymore; we're more of an overwatch element. We're letting the Iraqi Police, Army and Sons of Iraq take charge of their security, so that when we leave, it will already be in place."

For Cpl. Obermiller, who served at Camp Victory in Baghdad from 2007 to 2008, notes that his last deployment was different from this one in the fact that he was working under an aggressive force rather than in a support role.

Spc. Cassandra Monroe

Corporal Jeremy Obermiller, a truck driver and infantryman with 2nd Platoon, Security Detachment, Division Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division, scans his sector during a night patrol overwatch mission in Salah ad-Din province, Iraq, March 19.

"It's a change," he said. "On my last deployment, I was on combat missions nearly every day. The difference with this deployment is more about letting the Iraqi people take control of their own security."

After a little over three hours out in the field scanning their sectors for potential threats, the Soldiers drew back and headed back to base. Although no enemy suspects were found and nothing out of the ordinary was seen, Cpl. Obermiller still felt a sense of accomplishment.

"To me, the mission was a success because it was a pretty quiet night," he said. "Granted, we didn't find anything, but that's not always a bad thing. That means there's been a lull in enemy activity, and we're doing our job so the enemy doesn't want to come into our area of operations."

USD-N Soldiers become real-life crime scene investigators

Sgt. Johnathon Jobson
TF Marne Public Affairs

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE SPEICHER, Iraq – Evidence is crucial to any court case. Approximately 30 Soldiers from various units around U.S. Division-North learned how to properly collect and catalogue evidence during a sensitive site exploitation class held at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, March 15–19.

The course was a train the trainer class. The Soldiers, who were chosen by their units to attend the class, will be expected to return and train Soldiers, as well as put their new skills to use whenever weapons caches are found or buildings are searched while they are out on missions.

The Soldiers here learned basic crime scene investigation, explained Joseph Morrissey, the course instructor and law enforcement professional with the Joint Expeditionary Forensics Facility at COB Speicher.

"Just like you see on TV back home, photographing the scene, collecting and documenting the evidence, and drawing sketches of the scene for purposes of recreation for those who were not there themselves," Morrissey said.

Personnel at the JEFF lab handle all ballistics testing on weapons, DNA testing, and fingerprint analysis for items found during any mission done in the USD-N area of operations.

Courtesy photo

During the hands-on exercise portion of the sensitive site exploitation class, Sgt. 1st Class Raymond Loriaux, team chief for Civil Affairs Team 15, Company B, 414th Civil Affairs Battalion, dusts for fingerprints at the sensitive site exploitation training house.

Delving deeper into the basic topics, the Soldiers were taught more on collecting fingerprints from detainees and lifting latent fingerprints off surfaces. They also learned the proper ways to "bag and tag" evidence, such as whether or not a specific type of evidence needs to be in a plastic or paper bag and how to fill out evidence forms.

Rule of Law was an important topic of the course because the Soldiers have to know what is and is not allowed by the Security Agreement between the U.S. forces and the Government of Iraq.

"The Soldiers need to know that they are primarily just helping the Iraqis," Morrissey said. "Everything has to have an Iraqi 'face' on it. There are no Americans going out and conducting their own SSE to bring an American application for a warrant to an investigative judge."

The Soldiers were able to put their newly learned skills to the test in a mock SSE event, March 17. Using a mock Iraqi house as a training building at the explosive ordnance disposal range, Soldiers had to identify all of the items to be collected as evidence, lift fingerprints from various surfaces in the house, and search the site for weapons caches.

"There was no one big thing to be taken away from this course," said Spc. Rueben Delgado, the Civil Affairs Team 11 team chief from Company B, 414th Civil Affairs Battalion. "Everything we learned is something that can help fellow Soldiers down the road if we have to go and collect evidence to find someone who has maimed, kidnapped or killed one of our brothers-in-arms."

The sensitive site exploitation classes are held quarterly and open to any Soldier, regardless of their military occupational specialty. Task Force Marne Provost Marshal Office will notify units of the next class date and location.

Marne Voices Speak Out

If you could ask anyone a question, who would you ask and what would be the question?

"I would ask any higher ranking person in the military why some standards are promoted but not upheld."

Alicia Scoville
Family Member

"I would ask a lawyer why it is easier to make men pay child support than it is for women."

Spc. Marcus Jackson
632nd Maintenance Co.

"I would just ask anyone if they have any goals and where they are heading in life."

Jose Jimenez
Retired Army

"I would ask the band, Trapt, if they are going to release a fourth album."

Sgt. Deon Jett
TF Marne Server Room NCO

"I'd ask my grandfather what it was like growing up in Ireland."

Sgt. 1st Class Timothy Kirby
USD-N Military Working Dog Program Manager

"I'd ask the Chief of Staff of the Army if he would move 3rd Brigade Combat Team from Fort Benning to Fort Stewart."

Chief Warrant Officer Ray Noble
TF Marne Senior Maintenance Technician

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Army Family Convenant: Keeping the Promise

Stewart-Hunter ACS remains on track with Army Family Covenant

Princess Brown-Burkert
Army Community Service Marketing

During its 235 years of existence, the Army has put in place numerous programs institutionalizing its commitment to provide Soldiers and Family Members with the quality of life programs that are commensurate with their service and sacrifice. Services delivered through Army Family programs are critical to the well-being of Soldiers and Families and directly influence the Army's ability to sustain mission readiness during times of peace, war, and national crisis. The Army's commitment can be seen in its recent promise in the Army Family Covenant to continue to provide services to Soldiers and their Families.

The Army Family Covenant, unveiled in Oct. 2007, represented a $1.4 billion commitment to improve the quality of life for Army Families. It recognizes the sacrifices made on the home front while the Soldiers are deployed and pledges to standardize funding for existing Family programs and services; increase the accessibility and quality of health care; improve Soldier and Family housing; ensure excellence in schools, youth services and child care; and expand education and employment opportunities for Family Members.

The Army also established a continuum of care and services for wounded, injured and ill Soldiers, Warriors in Transition, in which many of dollars were funded by Army Family Covenant. To ensure the successful execution of taking care of WT Soldiers, the Army created Soldier & Family Assistance Center, which sole mission is to support Warrior Transition Units. The SFAC services include Defense Finance and Accounting; legal services; financial counseling; social services referrals; suicide prevention; pastoral services; military personnel services; transition and employment assistance; child care and youth services; education counseling; outreach assistance; donation management; information, referral and follow-up services; military and Veteran Affairs benefit services; and Traumatic Servicemember's Group Life Insurance.

The Soldier & Family Assistance Center, which is presently located at Fort Stewart in buildings 12718 and 12719, opened in January 2008. It serves as a one-stop location for Stewart-Hunter providing non-medical integrated support services that equips or assists WT Soldiers and their Families in making life-changing decisions as they transition back to duty or to the civilian community.

The Stewart/Hunter SFAC provides assistance to 274 WTs and expects their population to increase to approximately 600 within the next month.

The local SFAC also serves as an oversight entity to the Poly-Trauma Center located in Tampa, Fla. Fort Stewart staff travels to Tampa at least once a month to provide support to severely wounded WT Soldiers and Families by issuing Common Access Cards, providing legal assistance, offering financial counseling, providing education services, and more. According to the Stewart/Hunter SFAC Director Diane R. Smith, "Stewart/Hunter SFAC leads the way and serves as a model program for many other SFACs."

Fort Stewart SFAC will soon be moving into a new location across from the Winn Army Community Hospital emergency room on two acres of land on the corner of Niles Avenue and French Road. In order to continue to improve the services available to Warriors in Transition, the Army built new facilities for Soldier and Family Assistance Centers on installations with large WT populations.

The SFAC at Fort Stewart will be the focal point of the future WT Complex. The estimated $6M facility will provide support and services to Soldiers and their Families while the Soldiers undergo medical treatment. It will also serve as a gathering place for WT activities and events. The new 15,000 square feet building will include a suite of offices, reception area, large multipurpose room, fully equipped kitchen, meeting areas, an internet café, child activity center, playground, and courtyard.

Month of the Military Child

Community invited to parades, opening ceremonies for Month of the Military Child

Bob Mathews
DFMWR Marketing Publicity Specialist

Hundreds of the Army's finest – the children – will be the center of attention April 1, when parades and ceremonies at Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield mark the start of a 30-day celebration of Month of the Military Child.

April is the Month of the Military Child. Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield calendars are filled with special activities saluting, celebrating and supporting the children and their Families for the daily sacrifices they make and challenges they overcome in service to America.

The Bradwell Institute Color Guard and band will lead the Fort Stewart parade, adding music to the pageantry of opening day. The Fort Stewart kick-off will be at the Child Development Center, building 403. It is scheduled to begin at 9 a.m. and conclude about noon.

"About 400 children will be in the parade," said Becky Pringle, Child, Youth and School Services facility assistant director for building 403 at Stewart. "The littlest ones will be riding in their buggies, and the older children will be walking hand-in-hand with their parents or with staff and volunteers."

The children, ranging in age from four weeks to six years, will wear T-shirts that read, "I am a Military Child and Proud of It." Signs and banners will proclaim the Month of the Military Child and support this year's theme of "Early Years Are Learning Years."

The Fort Stewart parade will begin at building 403, go up Steele Avenue, turn on Hase Road and then make its way back to building 403.

An opening ceremony will be held in the courtyard at building 403. Brigadier General Jeffrey Phillips, 3rd ID deputy commanding general-rear, has been invited to make remarks during the ceremony. Pringle said the children will entertain guests with a song and the Bradwell Band will provide music while guests enjoy refreshments.

"We hope members of the community and others will turn out to cheer and encourage the children along the parade route and join us for the opening ceremony," Pringle said.

At Hunter Army Airfield, children will wear visors as well as red, yellow, orange, blue, purple or green T-shirts as they march around the block at the Child Development Center, building 1284. About 300 are expected to participate.

"At the Hunter CDC, the theme is 'Where Kids' Character Counts,'" said Amarys Martinez, Hunter director. She added that the center has "Character Towns," and the children will wear the colors of their town, or room.

The opening day parade and ceremony will begin at 9:30 a.m. and conclude at 11 a.m., Martinez said. Ginger Cuculo, wife of 3rd ID Commander Maj. Gen. Tony Cuculo, has been invited to speak.

"Volunteer parents, Family Child Care providers, School Age Services and Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation staffers will come out and help during the parade and ceremonies," she said.

Martinez said, "We'd love to have members of the community come out and join us for the parade, the opening ceremony and refreshments. We'd love to have them as our guests."

Ask The Judge: Power of Attorney

Capt. Scott C. Reitor
Legal Assistance Office

When a Soldier deploys or leaves the area for training, a great many things must be left behind. We leave behind the ones we love and the comforts of home, but we also leave behind responsibilities and obligations. There are bills that need to be paid, leases that may need to be entered into or completed, vehicle registrations that must be renewed, and countless other tasks that must be left to someone other than the person who would normally be responsible for it. In these situations, a power of attorney enables you to appoint a temporary substitute, called an agent, who can act on your behalf.

A power of attorney is one of the strongest legal documents that an individual can give to another person. A POA is a document that enables your agent to act on your behalf and is used in situations where you are not available to personally take care of your affairs. A POA can be as simple and specific as to designate an agent who can renew the registration on your car, or they can be so broadly worded as to allow them to do virtually anything you could do yourself.

There are two categories of powers of attorney: general and special.

General Power of Attorney. A GPOA authorizes your agent to act for you in all matters, including access to banking accounts, safety deposit boxes, and other accounts. It also allows your agent to borrow money in your name, sell or mortgage real property, to use credit lines, and to sign any kind of contract in your name.

The GPOA gives your agent the power to make almost any decision on your behalf, and therefore is not a document to be executed without careful consideration. A GPOA is generally not recommended because it can be easily misused by a disloyal agent, and furthermore, a limited special POA can almost always be prepared that will meet your needs.

Special Power of Attorney. A SPOA allows your agent to perform only certain acts that you designate in the POA. They are preferable to GPOAs because they limit what your agent can do on your behalf, and better protect you by limiting the opportunity for misuse by a disloyal agent. The Legal Assistance Office has prepared numerous SPOAs for acts that our clients routinely request, including acts such as automobile transactions, real property transactions, Family and medical care, household goods, payment of taxes, and many others. If we do not have a SPOA that meets your needs, we can also help you draft a specific POA for your situation.

Any power of attorney should be safeguarded and should be drafted only when necessary. You should always put an expiration date on a POA. Some businesses will refuse to take a POA without an expiration date. Your agent should be mature, able to exercise good judgment, intelligent, and someone you trust completely to manage your affairs. Acts performed by your agent are legally binding upon you just as if you performed the act yourself.

Please note that third parties (banks, businesses, etc.) are not required to accept your POA; therefore, you should check with the particular bank or business before executing a POA to be sure that it will be accepted. Some businesses, particularly financial institutions, have their own POA forms that they require.

No appointment is necessary to get a Power of Attorney from the Legal Assistance Office. The staff of the Legal Assistance Office can assist you in identifying what POA you need for a given situation as well as help you execute a power of attorney from your financial institution, insurer, or other business.

For further information, contact the Legal Assistance Office at Fort Stewart, building 621, call 767-8809/8819, or at Hunter, building 1211, call 315-5115.

The history behind Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Lashanda Palmer
ACS Sexual Assault Response Coordinator

In the late 1970s, women in England began a movement to protest against violence. That movement is commonly known as Take Back the Night, in direct response to violence that women experienced as they traveled the streets at night. These efforts evolved into a movement that included the United States.

In 1978, the U.S. hosted its first Take Back the Night events in San Francisco and New York City. As years went on, sexual assault activities expanded to include issues of violence against men, who began to help in the fight against sexual violence.

In the late 1980s, the National Coalition against Sexual Assault worked to develop a week in April to honor Sexual Assault Awareness, which eventually grew to a month each April. The Department of Defense and Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield will begin its observance of Sexual Assault Awareness Month, April 1.

Every 2.5 minutes, somewhere in America, someone is sexually assaulted (*www.pcar.org*). Since sexual violence occurs at alarming rates, Sexual Assault Awareness Month helps educate the community about this serious issue.

This annual event provides the opportunity to highlight the efforts of the Department of Defense and military services to combat sexual assault and promote prevention through special activities and public education. The focus for this year's SAAM is prevention. The theme is: "Hurts one. Affects all...Preventing sexual assault is everyone's duty."

This year's theme conveys that sexual assault affects the victim, and it affects bystanders. Preserving mission readiness can serve as motivation for acts of bystander intervention. Each military service will have a series of posters that illustrate real-life situations encouraging everyone to get involved. Lack of action puts friends, Families, and co-workers in jeopardy.

Sexual assault is a crime that is contrary to Army values and punishable under Uniform Code of Military Justice. The DoD and military services have created policies to address sexual assault prevention and to establish a climate of confidence throughout the military in which sexual assault and the attitudes that promote it are not tolerated, victims of sexual assault received the care and support that they need and offenders are held accountable for their actions.

Learn how you can help prevent sexual assault by participating in local SAAM events during the month of April. Some of upcoming events include self-defense courses and forum events presented by the Rape Crisis Center. For more information, call ACS at 767-5058. Essential contact numbers include the following:

Victim Advocacy: 767-3032 at Stewart or 315-5343 at Hunter

Military Law Enforcement: 911

Rape Crisis Center: 1-888-241-7273

$1,000 Reward Offered

A reward of $1,000 is being offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person(s) responsible for an armed robbery, which occurred on Oct. 24, 2008 at building 3004, Fort Stewart, Ga., 31314.

Anyone having knowledge of the incident, but not wishing to be identified, will be briefed on available options in maintaining their confidentiality.

The payout of cash rewards to military and federal employees for information leading to a conviction is contingent upon exceptional actions regarding the information provided.

Those with information concerning this matter are encouraged to call the U.S. Army CID office located at Fort Stewart, Ga. at (912) 767-5030, or the Military Police Desk, Fort Stewart, Ga. (912) 767-4895.

The reward expires April 20, 2010.

Balfour Beatty
Communities

Homes Now Available

HOT MOVE IN SPECIALS!!!

MOVE ON POST FREE
IF YOU HAVE NEVER LIVED ON POST BEFORE!

Balfour Beatty Communities family housing on Fort Stewart offers two, three, and four bedroom homes available with no security deposits or application fees required.

Pets welcome (some restrictions apply). Work minutes from home!

TO APPLY, VISIT THE COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT OFFICES
Fort Stewart located at 50 Austin Road next to Kessler Elementary.
Fort Stewart located at 50 Southern Oaks Drive inside Gate 3.
Apply online at **www.fortstewartfamilyhousing.com** or
CALL **912-408-2460**.

Hunter Army Airfield located at 1 Gannam Avenue
Apply online at www.haaffamilyhomes.com or
CALL **912-459-2133.**

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

Education Matters

MyCAA resumes for existing accounts

The Department of Defense has resumed operations of the Military Spouse Career Advancement Account program for the 136,583 military spouses who currently have existing MyCAA accounts. Only those who created an account will have access to the entire Web site, including the ability to generate and have financial documents approved.

Those who have an approved Career and Training Plan and are taking courses at the same school should review their MyCAA messages, which provide full instructions on how to apply for Financial Assistance, with a program limit of $6,000.

Department of Defense is currently developing long-term options for the program and expected to announce the details soon. Until then, no new accounts can be created. During this time, education and career consultants will continue to be available to provide education and training, career exploration, assessment, employment readiness and career search assistance.

For additional details, call Military Once Source at 800-342-9647 and to access a six page list of alternative Educational Funding Opportunities, see the Web site, *www.militaryonesource.com/mycaa*.

Hope Grant for College Credit offered

Of special interest to those who cannot use MyCAA at this time, Savannah Technical College has the Technical Communications Specialist program, which is a great option to fulfill the General Education Requirement courses for your degree. Under this particular certificate program, the Hope Grant will cover the cost of Composition and Rhetoric, Literature and Composition, College Algebra, Public Speaking, Psychology, Sociology and Computer Concepts. These classes can later be transferred to most other colleges and universities.

Many other HOPE eligible diploma and certificate programs are offered by Technical Colleges throughout Georgia, including Savannah Technical College, Airport Road in Hinesville. Some classes are even available on-line or in the Fort Stewart Education Center. For more information, click on *www.gsfc.org* and *www.savannahtech.edu* or call Savannah Tech: Education Center, 408-2430; Hinesville, 408-3024; Savannah, 443-5700. For additional on-line classes, explore the Georgia Virtual Technical College Web site at *www.gvtc.org*.

Spouse scholarship slated

The Fort Stewart Enlisted Spouses Club promotes The Rita Ackerman Scholarship for Spouses of an active, retired or deceased enlisted Soldier and residing in the Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield area. Must be completed and mailed by April 1. Applications are available at the education centers.

Family member scholarships offered

The ThanksUSA Scholarship Program plans to award scholarships again this year. In the past the awards have been for $3000. All dependent children, age 24 and under and all spouses of active duty U.S. military service personnel are eligible to apply. Applicants must plan to enroll full-time in an accredited two-year or four-year college, university or technical school. Scholarship recipients are selected on the basis of financial need, academic record and demonstrated leadership and participation in school and community activities. The on-line application should be available on April 1. It is advisable to apply right away. To download the guidelines and application, go to *www.thanksusa.org/main/scholarships.html*.

CTC Foundation scholarships available

The Central Texas College Foundation provides 155 awards to competitively selected students every year. Foundation scholarships are both need and merit based. For more information, or to view a listing of available scholarships and eligibility criteria, go to *www.ctcd.edu/f_aid/2009-2010/scholarships.cfm* and click on "CTC Foundation." Application deadline is March 31.

In addition, there is an institutional scholarship for an active duty or retired Marine Corps service member or immediate Family Member. See details by clicking on *www.ctcd.edu/marine/index.htm*.

Columbia offers spouse scholarship

Spouses of military personnel can take their first classroom course free while they complete their financial aid paperwork and enrollment procedures with Columbia College. The active duty member does not have to be enrolled with Columbia College. In addition, Columbia offers spouses a 20 percent tuition discount for "in-seat" (classroom) courses. Call the Fort Stewart site at 877-3406 or dial 352-8635 at Hunter.

Glennville Chamber of Commerce visits Fort Stewart

Pat Young
Fort Stewart Public Affairs

Understanding and partnership were part of the mission of the recent visit by the Glennville Chamber of Commerce and key leader visit, as approximately 30 guests from nearby Tattnall County toured Fort Stewart, March 16.

Explaining the installation's need to train and how by-products like noise and smoke are part of the modern training environment was addressed during the visit, which focused on programs like the Army Compatible Use Buffer, a program that examines how boundary areas between the installation and local communities can be used to benefit both community and installation.

Visiting the Combined Arms Collective Training Facility, Jim Pearson, Chief of Training Division for the Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security and Tim Beaty, Chief for the Fish and Wildlife Division of the Directorate of Public Works helped illuminate the installation's approach to training and resource conservation relating to boundaries.

Pearson noted how the installation's mission was to provide a safe, secure, and responsive community that enhances the Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield power projection platform in support of national security objectives.

He said they tried to do that while focusing to make Stewart-Hunter a model for Army Forces to train, deploy, live, and choose to raise their Family – a focus that helped the installation garner the Army Community of Excellence Award four times, in 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2009. The installation was mandated to sit out of the competition for 2007 and 2008.

Some of the items of interest Pearson noted as unique areas of importance for Stewart-Hunter are that it is the largest Army Installation east of the Mississippi River, covering nearly 285,000 acres with the ability to train 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year with minimal environmental limitations and an estimated economic impact of about $4.5 billion.

Beaty noted one of the ways they are able to maximize training opportunities was through resource optimization, using programs like Ecosystem Management Activities such as timber harvesting and using prescribed burns.

He said one of the interesting facts they discovered that through the use of fire, a natural process found in the coastal plain longleaf pine forests that may have occurred previously from events like lightning strikes, the installation was able to keep the areas not only ideal for training, but conducive to local wildlife.

Following the briefing, the guest were able to take a tour of the Combined Arms Collective Training Facility, a facility made to look like a generic town that can be tailored to resemble an area Soldiers may deploy to. With city streets, operational buildings, cars and state-of the art sound system, the installation was able to provide a very real training environment, complete with barking dogs, talking, and explosions.

The facility was also able to replicate smells that may be found in the area Soldiers deploy too.

Charles Dunn, Supervisor, Training Aids and Devices Section, Training Support Center, was able to demonstrate how they helped train Soldiers to look for Improvised Explosive Devises, showing the guest various training aids available to units.

They even detonated a couple of the simulators that showed the guests that with training comes smoke and noise, helping them understand that was part of the sound of freedom.

Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield Briefs

Weekend DFAC hours posted

The Fort Stewart weekend dining facility for March 27-28 is Vanguard Dining Facility, building 512. Fort Stewart dining facility weekend serving hours are 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. for brunch, and 3:30-5:30 p.m. for dinner.

The Hunter Army Airfield weekend dining facility for March 27-28 is the 1/75 Ranger Dining Facility, building 110. Hunter Army Airfield dining facility weekend serving hours are 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for brunch, and 4:30-6 p.m. for dinner.

The Warrior Transition Battalion Dining Facility, building 12902 in the National Guard training area, weekend serving hours are breakfast, 8-9:30 a.m.; lunch, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.; and dinner, 5-6:30 p.m.

Deadline for tax return drop-off

The last day to drop off returns to the Marne Tax Center is March 31. The Marne Tax Center is located on Fort Stewart in building 9404, 1112 Worchester Ave. and on Hunter Army Airfield in building 1211, 638 Horace Emmet Wilson Blvd. Hours of operation are 9 a.m. to noon, Mon. - Wed., for drop off only; Thur. - Fri. by appointment only to pick up completed returns. Service is limited to simple returns and only to active duty Soldiers and eligible Family Members. Please call Fort Stewart at 767-1040 or Hunter at 315-3675 for further information.

Language, Culture Day slated

Soldiers are invited to the first annual Language and Culture Day at 1 p.m., Friday. The event will take place at the Division Language Training Facility, building TF232 on 6th Street across from the 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team dining facility.

Soldiers can sample a variety of ethnic foods while listening to cultural music. The facility language instructors will give examples of how knowledge of another language can be very useful in a tactical environment. Information will be provided on how survival language classes can be scheduled and what language materials are available to support units that are deploying. For more information. please contact Sgt. Paul Lucas, (912) 435-0822, *paul.d.lucas@us.army.mil*.

Parking limited to official vehicles

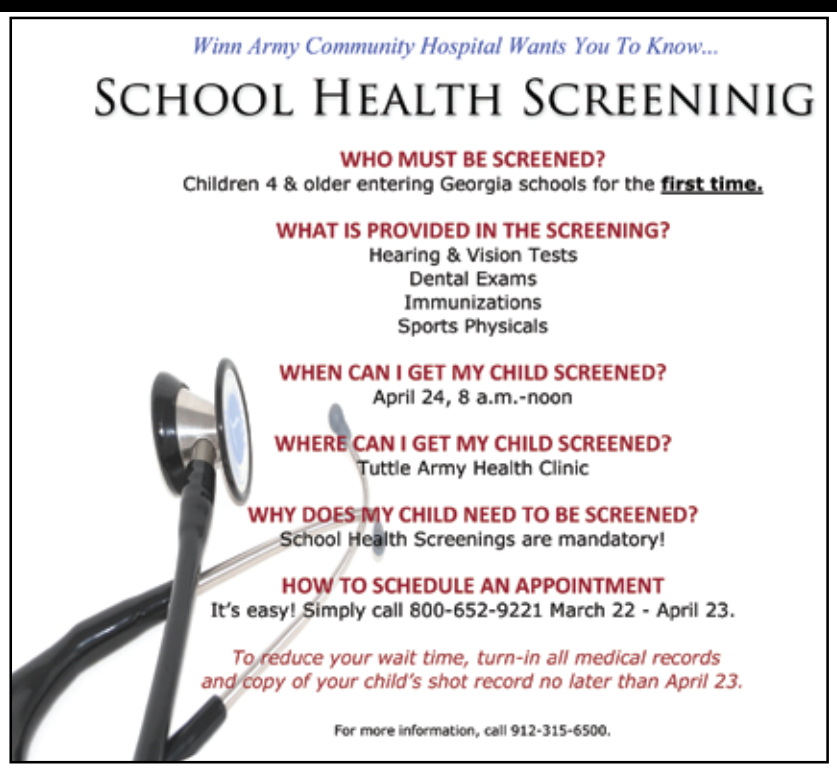
Parking at building 275, Personnel Processing Center for privately owned vehicles is by permit only. To ensure safety of Soldiers, Army Civilians and contractors working and receiving service at that building, parking must be limited to government vehicles, buses and POVs with parking pass only. Soldiers who are scheduled to go through SRC must be bused to the site.

Individuals receiving service from the MPD Section or ID card section must park outside the gate or across the street in the parking area. For units conducting SRC, if your leadership needs parking passes for their POVs, please contact Judy Waynick, Chief, MPD to receive passes. Call 767-5253 or e-mail *judy.waynick@us.army.mil*.

Attention motorists

Beginning 8 a.m., Monday through 5 p.m., April 9, there will be roadwork on GA Hwy 144 at the entrance into the new 4th IBCT site. Area is adjacent to the former garden plot site. Subject roadwork is necessary for the installation of a turn lane. Detour signs and traffic control devices will be displayed and posted for the roadwork duration.

Motorists are encouraged to avoid the area to minimize traffic congestion and to be alert to changes in traffic patterns around this area. For more information, contact David DeLoach, Corps of Engineers, at (912) 368-8180.



Free after school EDGE activities listed

The March 2010 EDGE program activities available at various FMWR facilities post-wide include:

Grades 6-12: Skin care class (A touch of class), 3rd ID Heritage Awareness tour, archery, Earth Day, miniature golf, and creative cooking.

Participation in the CYSS EDGE after school program (Art EDGE, Fit EDGE, Life EDGE, and Adventure EDGE activities) is going strong for Military connected youth on Stewart.

The program activities are free for CYSS registered children (grades 6-12). All Family Members of active duty military, Army Civilians, and government contract employees are eligible to participate in the program. Register for any of the activities at CYSS Central Registration Office, building 443, 767-2312. For details, call Darnell Braggs, FMWR partnership specialist at 767-1341.

Driver's Ed offered

SKIES Unlimited now offers Driver's Education at Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield. The classes cost $325 and are designed for Youth, ages 15-18.

The Fort Stewart class is 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., April 5-9 at the Youth Center, building 7338. Contact CYSS Central Registration at 767-2312 or stop by for more information. The Hunter Army Airfield Class is 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., March 29-April 2 at building 1289. Contact Hunter CYSS Central Registration at 315-5425 or stop by for more information.

3rd ID Intranet Web site URL changed

The 3rd ID intranet Web site has changed its url address. The following is the correct address: *https://3idintranet1.stewart.army.mil/Pages/Default.aspx*. For more information, contact G-6, at 435-9812.

Tutoring offered

The Department of Defense is now offering unlimited access to certified, professional tutors 24/7 through partnership with *www.tutor.com/military-programs*. The services provided are available to all active duty servicemembers and their Family Members. Homework help and study guidance are available for all those returning to school or for their spouses/children.

Test preparation courses offer a systematic approach to taking on standardized testing; writing skills can be strengthened through one-on-one proofreading and editing. For more information on CAP's Wounded Servicemember Initiative, please visit *www.tricare.mil/cap/wsm*.

For information on CAP and accommodation solutions for civilian employees with disabilities and wounded servicemembers, please visit *www.tricare.mil/cap*.

Absentee ballot deadlines approaching

Military and civilian voters, submit your ballot request for the May and June state primaries.

The following States will hold Primary Elections, May-June, 2010 on the dates indicated:

May 4: Indiana, North Carolina, Ohio

May 11: Nebraska, West Virginia

May 18: Arkansas, Kentucky, Oregon, Pennsylvania

May 25: Idaho

June 1: Alabama, Mississippi, New Mexico

June 8: California, Iowa, Maine, Montana, Nevada, New Jersey, North Dakota, South Carolina, South Dakota, Virginia

June 22: Utah

Register and request your ballot now. All members of the U.S. Uniformed Services, government employees, and their Family Members who are residents from these states and have not yet submitted a registration and ballot request for the 2010 calendar year, should do so as soon as possible.

For more information, visit the FVAP Web site at *www.fvap.gov*. If you'd like more information on the Federal Voting Assistance Program or need help with the absentee voting process, please contact FVAP at *www.fvap.gov*, 1-800-438-8683, DSN (312) 425-1584, or at *vote@fvap.ncr.gov*.

On-going construction at Stewart's Gate 1

From March 24 through June 24, construction will be conducted on Gate 1 to expand the canopy covering the inbound lanes. As a result, two of the three inbound traffic lanes will be closed at any given time.

The "Pass Lane" of Gate 1 will not be affected and inbound traffic will be able to use this lane to enter Fort Stewart.

To alleviate any congestion, Gate 2 will be reopened for inbound and outbound traffic from 5 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Relay for Life Bowling Tournament

Calling all Liberty county teams to join us at the Stewart Bowling Lanes at noon, April 10 to benefit the American Cancer Society. Four-person teams are needed, and registration is $20 per person. For further information, please contact Grace Ford at (912) 222-1257.

Learn How to Start an Online Business

Marjorie Young will be conducting a 1 ½-hour discussion on "How to start and run a home-based business," at Moon Theater, building 704, from noon to 1:30 p.m., Friday. The event is part of the ongoing Marne Lecture series. To learn more about Marjorie Young, visit: *www.carriagetradepr.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2*

Vehicle registration locations, hours change

The location of the Vehicle Registration Office has changed. At Fort Stewart, Soldiers, Family Members, retirees, Army Civilians and contractors may register their vehicles at building 253 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday-Friday. At Hunter Army Airfield, the Vehicle Registration Office will be located at building 400 and will be operational from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday-Friday.

You can get a new decal, with proper documentation, 30 days prior to expiration of your current decal. If your decal has expired, you will be required to stop and receive a pass to enter the installation. Passes are issued at Gate 1 and 5 at Stewart and at Montgomery and Wilson Gates at Hunter.

Balfour Beatty Communities

STEWART

Prize Eggs

If you are participating in the post wide MWR Easter Egg Hunt, then be sure to look for our Balfour Beatty prize eggs! They will be hidden amongst the rest, but will have a sticker indicating it's a prize egg. Cash in your egg with one of the event representatives and take home a prize! Event takes place 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., April 3 at the ball fields behind the CDC.

Home Run Derby

Knock it out of the park! The further you hit it the more points you get. Winner will receive a prize! We will be using plastic bat and balls. Event takes place 2-3 p.m., April 5 at Liberty Woods Community Management Office.

Teen Brain Games Night

Teens, bring your friends to join your team! The brightest brains will win! We'll be playing fun brain teaser/trivia games. Junk food will be provided. Event takes place 5-6 p.m., April 8 at the Southern Oaks Community Center.

Neighborhood Huddle

A neighborhood huddle is an opportunity for residents to come together as a community. It's a great chance to meet your neighbors and share any ideas, issues or concerns about your neighborhood with us. Help make your community a great place to live! Event takes place 3-3:30 p.m., April 12 at the playground across from Brittin Elementary.

Home Tweet Home

Come decorate your own bird house/feeder. Take them home and watch the birds enjoy! Event takes place 3:30-4:30 p.m., April 14 at the Southern Oaks Community Center.

Promise Tree Planting

Join us to celebrate Earth Day and make a difference. Help us plant a tree, and hope, for our planet's future. Decorate your promise bottle and hang it on the tree as a reminder that everyone must do their part. Event will take place 3:30-4:30 p.m., April 22 at the Southern Oaks Community Center.

Nutritional Cooking for Kids

Learn to make easy, healthy snacks for after school or to put in your lunch box. Event takes place 3:30-4:30 p.m., April 29 at the Southern Oaks Community Center.

Hunter

Teen Brain Games Night

Teens, bring your friends to join your team! The brightest brains will win! We'll be playing fun brain teaser/trivia games. Junk food will be provided. Event takes place 5-6:30 p.m., April 2 at the New Savannah/New Callaway Community Center.

Prize Eggs

If you are participating in the post wide MWR Easter Egg Hunt, then be sure to look for our Balfour Beatty prize eggs! They will be hidden amongst the rest, but will have a sticker indicating it's a prize egg. Cash in your egg at our table and take home a prize! Event takes place 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., April 3 at the CDC across from the commissary.

Nutritional Cooking for Kids

Learn to make easy, healthy snacks for after school or to put in your lunch box. Event takes place 5-6 p.m., April 6 at the Community Management Office.

Neighborhood Huddle

A neighborhood huddle is an opportunity for residents to come together as a community. It's a great chance to meet your neighbors and share any ideas, issues or concerns about your neighborhood with us. Help make your community a great place to live! Event takes place 10:30-11 a.m., April 13 at the Community Management Office.

Home Tweet Home

Come decorate your own bird house/feeder. Take them home and watch the birds enjoy! Event takes place 5-6 p.m., April 13 at the New Savannah/New Callaway Community Center.

SAFTEY

Emergency preparedness: Are you ready?

IMCOM Safety Office

Preparing for an emergency requires a bit of effort, but it's time well spent. What if an explosion, a landslide or a flash flood forced an evacuation of your neighborhood before you got home from work? Would you know where to find your Family? Do you know the emergency plans for your children's school? And at work, do you know your role in your company's emergency response plan?

When you prepare for an emergency, you can reduce some of the stress and anxiety experienced by yourself and your Family Members during a difficult time.

Here are some tips to help you prepare for an emergency at work and at home:

At Work

• Learn about the hazards of your workplace. Do you know where to find a chemical's MSDS (material safety data sheet), a safety shower or an emergency shut-off switch?

• Know how to get out alive. Study the company's evacuation plans and memorize two ways out of every area of your workplace - without an elevator. Note the number of doors and workstations between you and the exit so you can find your way out in the dark, if necessary. You should also know the designated meeting place and reporting procedures for personnel after an evacuation.

• Note the location of the fire extinguishers and learn how to correctly use them.

• Know where to find the first aid kit and how to contact employees certified to provide first aid.

• Post emergency phone numbers by your workstation, as well as the address and exact location of your workplace.

• Keep your identification with you, as well as contact numbers and any necessary medical information.

• If you have a disability or condition that might interfere with your ability to exit quickly, inform your supervisor.

At Home

• Pack a disaster kit twice. Keep one kit in the home and a miniature version in your car.

• Create an evacuation plan of your home. Review it with your Family and practice it at least once a year.

• Designate an out-of-the-area relative or Family friend to be a contact – the Family point person.

• If Family Members are separated during an emergency, they can call the point person and leave or retrieve messages.

• Pick two meeting places, one in your neighborhood and one far from home in case the neighborhood is evacuated.

• Talk to your children's schools about emergency plans. Make sure they have your contact information and know who is authorized to pick up your child if you can't get there yourself.

Preparing for an emergency not only reduces the stress experienced during an emergency; it can also make Family Members feel more in control of their safety.

During times of chaos, a little control is very powerful.

Be safe, 'Be Tire Smart - Play your PART'

IMCOM Safety Office

Proper tire care and safety is simple and easy. The Rubber Manufacturers Association recommends taking five minutes every month and before every long trip to check your tires, including the spare. Just remember to "Be Tire Smart - Play Your PART: Pressure, Alignment, Rotation, and Tread."

Tire Maintenance Checklist:

Pressure - Under inflation results in unnecessary tire stress, irregular wear, loss of control and accidents. A tire can lose up to half of its inflation pressure and not appear to be flat.

Alignment - A bad jolt from hitting a curb or pothole can throw your front end out of alignment and damage your tires. Have a tire dealer check the alignment periodically to ensure that your car is properly aligned.

Rotation - Regularly rotating your vehicle's tires will help you achieve more uniform wear. Unless your vehicle's owner's manual has a specific recommendation, the guideline for tire rotation is approximately every 5,000 miles.

Tread - Advanced and unusual wear can reduce the ability of tread to grip the road in adverse conditions. Visually check your tires for uneven wear, looking for high and low areas or unusually smooth areas. Also check for signs of damage.

Don't Forget: Always practice good driving habits.

How to Check Inflation Pressure:

Look for this information in your vehicle. Refer to your vehicle's owner's manual for the proper level of inflation; it may also be posted on the door post or in the glove box.

When you check the inflation pressure, make sure the tires are cool - meaning they are not hot from driving even a mile. (*Note*: If you have to drive a distance to get air, check and record the tire pressure first and add the appropriate inflation pressure when you get to the pump. It is normal for tires to heat up and the inflation pressure inside to increase as you drive. Never "bleed" or reduce air pressure when tires are hot.) Check inflation pressure once a month and before long trips.

• If you overfill the tire, you can release air by pushing on the metal stem in the center of the valve with a fingernail or the tip of a pen. Then be sure to recheck the pressure with your tire gauge.

• Replace the valve cap.

• Remember to check the spare. (*Note*: Some spare tires require higher inflation pressure).

Why Check Your Alignment?

If your car's suspension system is out of alignment, your tires will wear unevenly and you may experience handling problems. Potholes and rough roads can contribute to problems with alignment.

Front-wheel drive vehicles, and those with independent rear suspension, require alignment of all four wheels.

Have a tire dealer check your alignment periodically as specified by your vehicle owner's manual or if handling problems develop, such as "pulling."

Also have your tire balance checked periodically. An unbalanced tire and wheel assembly may result in irregular wear or vibration.

Why Rotate Your Tires?

Each tire on your car supports a different amount of weight; this unequal weight distribution causes your tires to wear at different rates. By rotating your tires, you can extend their useful life.

If your tires show uneven wear, ask your tire dealer to check for and correct any misalignment, imbalance or other mechanical problem involved before rotation.

Refer to your vehicle's owner's manual for rotation recommendations. If no rotation period is specified, tires should be rotated approximately every 5,000 miles.

Sometimes front and rear tires use different pressures. After rotation, adjust tire inflation pressure to the figures recommended by the vehicle manufacturer.

How to Check Tread:

When the tread is worn down to 2/32 of an inch, tires must be replaced.

All tires have "wear bars," which are small, raised bars of rubber in the groove that indicate when tires are worn out. If your tread is worn down to the wear bars, it's time for a new tire.

A penny is a reliable tool to check tire tread.

1. Take a penny and put Lincoln's head into one of the grooves of the tire tread. If part of his head is covered by the tread, you're driving with the legal amount of tread.

2. If you can see all of Lincoln's head, it's time to replace the tire.

Visually check your tires for signs of uneven wear. You may have irregular tread wear if there are high and low areas or unusually smooth areas. Also make sure no nails or other objects are embedded in the tire. Consult your tire dealer as soon as possible if you see problems.

Practice good driving habits, which will help keep your tires in good condition.

Tire Pressure Monitoring System: Vehicles equipped with Tire Pressure Monitoring Systems can help motorists detect loss of inflation pressure. Federal regulations require TPMS to warn drivers when tires are 25 percent under inflated. For many vehicles this warning may be too late to prevent damage caused by under inflation. TPMS units are NOT a replacement for monthly tire pressure checks with a gauge.

• Obey posted speed limits.

• Always buckle your seat belt.

• Avoid fast starts, stops and turns.

• Avoid potholes and other objects on the road.

• Do not run over curbs or hit your tires against the curb when parking.

•Do not overload your vehicle. Check your vehicle's tire information or owner's manual for the maximum recommended load for your vehicle.

Recycling requires community cooperation

Amanda Hinesley
Directorate of Public Works

The Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division's Recycling Program has been knocking on the doors of military units and garrison organizations for several years dispersing information, conducting assessments, and holding training sessions.

These efforts have been in an attempt to inform and ensure everyone is aware of the on-post requirement to recycle and to assist with establishing and implementing a productive recycling program on the installation.

Many of the people we come in contact with do not live on the installation but are held to the recycling standard during the day while at work. Once home, they may find it easy to break these habits then find themselves having to kick them back in place once they return to work the next day.

However, we hope these environmentally-friendly habits will be carried from work to home.

The inspiring beauty of this is the hopes that the outside community will work with the installation community as one to create a productive recycling program for all. So, remember to separate your recyclables at home and bring them to work with you the next day.

Once on the installation, stop by one of the blue recycling containers next to the building near your place of employment or at the 24-hour convenience center in the parking lot of the Post Exchange

Taking these simple extra steps could lead to the lowering of county tax for everyone by reducing the disposal fees paid to put your trash in the landfill.

The DPW Environmental Division faces the challenge on a daily basis of making the recycling program the best program in the Army. The support from everyone on and off post has made the job a little easier.

Partnering with officials from the area communities has proven to be a win-win understanding for all that is involved.

Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield met the federal mandate goal of 40 percent waste diversion at the end of 2009, one year ahead of the 2010 deadline. The local communities eliminate solid waste disposal fees by donating recyclables collected to the Stewart/Hunter Recycling Program.

If you are a recycler living in Liberty County and do not want to drive through a gate security check point to get on post, all is not lost.

Liberty County has established seven convenience centers and five drop-off locations throughout the county. Contact the Liberty County Solid Waste Management Department at 884-5353/5037 for additional information.

County Convenience Centers:

- 25 South Dairy Road (SR 196W, Gum Branch)
- 156 Pate Rogers Road (Fleming)
- 836 Limerick Road (near Lake George)
- 64 Left Field Road (Hwy 84, Miller Park)
- 619 J V Road (west of Hinesville)
- 50 Isle of Wight Road (Midway area)
- 344 Fort Morris Road (east end near Sunbury)

Additional Recycling Drop-Off Sites:

- 111 Carter Road (behind Poole's Deli)
- 129 Sandy Run (off Hwy 84)
- 941 E G Miles Parkway (SR 196W at Training Center)
- 200 Talmadge Road (behind Walthourville City Hall)
- 4000 Coastal Hwy (Hwy 17 in Riceboro)

All materials collected from these sites are donated to the Fort Stewart Recycling Processing Station.

Fort Stewart does not charge the county a disposal fee for the sorted materials delivered to the processing station. Reducing waste tonnage paid for solid waste disposal fees at the landfill can mean additional savings for the county and ultimately for the tax payer.

Become an advocate for recycling. Purchasing commodities manufactured from recycled materials, such as copier paper, etc., creates a demand for recyclables. Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield and Coastal Georgia are making positive strides as environmental stewards.

With the support of the entire community the environment will sustain itself well into the future. The news articles, handouts and assessments only reach a small portion of the population.

Talk to your neighbors, Family, and co-workers about recycling. Contact the Fort Stewart/Hunter Army Airfield Solid Waste Management Section at (912) 767-2010 with your questions or to request assistance.

Making the qualified recycling program an effective, self-sufficient operation is our goal and we are available to support the community.

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Profiling members of the 3rd Infantry Division Band

Spc. Jessica Rohr
135th MPAD, 3rd Infantry Division Public Affairs

Staff Sgt. Kevin L. Jahn

Staff Sergeant Kevin L. Jahn, a native of Valley City, N.D., is serving on his second deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, near Tikrit, Iraq. Staff Sergeant Jahn is a drummer with the 3rd Infantry Division Band, out of Fort Stewart.

The son of Bill Jahn of Valley City, N.D., Staff Sgt. Jahn is a 1994 graduate of the Valley City High School and 1999 graduate of Valley City State University, Valley City, N.D., with a Bachelor's in music education

"The opportunity to play music as an actual profession and get paid with good benefits really drew me to the Army. The fact that the Army paid for my undergrad loans was just a bonus," said Staff Sgt. Jahn.

As a civilian, Staff Sgt. Jahn taught band and choir for two years at Devils Lake, N.D., High School prior to enlisting into the military. After completing basic training at Fort Jackson, S.C., in April 2004, Staff Sgt. Jahn graduated from the U.S. Army Element School of Music, Little Creek, Va., for training as a drummer, in October 2004. Going on his sixth year with the United States Army, Staff Sgt. Jahn is currently on his second deployment. Staff Sergeant Jahn has been with the 3rd ID Band for a little over a year.

As a drummer, Staff Sgt. Jahn entertains armed forces through many different genres of music. As part of the Task Force Marne Jazz Combo, Staff Sgt. Jahn played a gig at the Green Beans Coffee Shop at COB Speicher, March 14.

"Jazz allows me to be a little more artistic than usual. With jazz you are given more freedom to do whatever as opposed to playing a rock tune in a cover band. I get to be a little bit more artistic and free with what I want to do," said Staff Sgt. Jahn.

Photos by Spc. Jessica Rohr

Staff Sergeant Kevin L. Jahn, a drummer with the 3rd ID Band, plays during a jazz compilation with four other band members in the Task Force Marne Jazz Combo during a free concert held for Soldiers at the Green Beans Coffee Shop on COB Speicher, March 14.

Sgt. Juan M. Hinojosa

Sergeant Juan M. Hinojosa, a native of Garland, Texas, is serving his first deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, at COB Speicher. Sergeant Hinojosa is a saxophone player, a rock singer and an operations noncommissioned officer with the 3rd ID Band.

The son of Luis and Patsy Hinojosa, Garland, Texas, Sgt. Hinojosa is a 2000 graduate of Garland High and received a Bachelor's of Arts in music from Texas A & M, College Station, Texas in 2006.

Sergeant Hinojosa enlisted the Army as a saxophone player. After completing basic training at Fort Jackson, S.C. in August 2006, Sgt. Hinojosa attended the U.S. Army Element School of Music, Little Creek, Va. for training as a saxophone player, graduating in February 2007.

He has been with the 3rd ID. Band for 10 months.

Sergeant Juan M. Hinojosa plays his tenor saxophone in 3rd ID Task Force Marne Jazz Combo at the Green Beans Coffee Shop located in the shopping center of COB Speicher.

"The Army was the best avenue for me to make a steady living while playing the saxophone," said Sgt. Hinojosa. "To get a saxophone position after college was very competitive. Saxophones are few and far between in major city orchestras."

Recently, Sgt. Hinojosa played his tenor saxophone in the Task Force Marne Jazz Combo at the front porch of the Green Beans Coffee to help the hard-working Soldiers of COB Speicher unwind, March 14.

The Task Force Marne Band's focus is to entertain all Soldiers throughout United States Division-North

"We did a little mini tour with both of our rock bands: Four Horsemen of the Arockalypse and Sasquatch," recalls Sgt. Hinojosa.

"One of the places that I really enjoyed was playing at Forward Operating Base Warhorse. It's a smaller FOB, and it really stuck out to me because those guys don't get a lot there; they don't have much. It's nice to take your music and what you do for the Army to a place where they have little to no entertainment. The Soldiers there appreciate it immensely."

"The Task Force Marne Band is the best Army Band in the world," said Command Sgt. Maj. Jesse Andrews, Task Force Marne command sergeant major, who came out to show his support for the band.

"The band is a combat multiplier… They are just as lethal with their instrument as our most qualified infantryman out there with the tip of their spear in our operating environment."

Desert Cat's eyes patrol the skies to keep Soldiers safe

Pvt. Emily Knitter
1-3 AAB, USD-C

BAGHDAD — In a room not quite large enough to stand up in, computer screens cover one wall, showing maps in one window, a video of the local traffic driving down a dusty road on another; and yet another shows lists of numbers and codes that are continuously changing.

Keyboards fill a ledge below the computers. The two black chairs in front of them take up almost the entire room. The green walls, covered sporadically with maps of the area, reflect the light from the computers, giving the room a surreal glow.

A young man sits in one of the chairs, typing occasionally, watching the screens intently. The silence fills the confines until the man reaches over and plugs in his iPod. As "Handlebars" by the alternative rock band Flobots fills the room, he grins. Singing along with the music, Spc. Mitchell Moore, a 20 year-old native of Apple Valley, Calif., looks back at the screens. Adjusting the camera angle on the airplane a bit, he leans back in the chair.

"So, this is what I do," he says.

Specialist Moore, along with the few other Soldiers who work inside the area, operates Unmanned Aerial System airplanes for 1st Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, out of Forward Operating Base Falcon.

The airplanes fly the skies of Iraq, sending live video feedback to the operators. This can be used for such things as monitoring suspected insurgent movement, providing surveillance over troops operating on the ground, and watching areas to make sure the enemy isn't trying to plant improvised explosive devices.

Sitting in the room 12 hours a day, seven days a week, Spc. Moore is surprisingly upbeat about his job and its responsibilities. Although some days, it doesn't appear he and the other flight operators do much, he said that just being in the air may save lives.

For this reason, they keep the airplanes in the air almost constantly and with only six flight operators, the Soldiers end up logging some very long hours. As the only junior enlisted Soldier during the day shift, Spc. Moore has logged the most flight hours in his platoon: more than 300 hours during the first three months of the deployment.

The long hours don't bother him, though.

"Honestly, I make sure that I have the most flight hours," he said. "I like that I do. It's kind of a personal goal for me because having the most flight hours means the most experience, and I want to be the best of my platoon."

As much as Spc. Moore enjoys his job, he said he had never thought much about flying airplanes until he joined the military.

"Originally, I was going to be infantry, but because I was a minor, my dad wouldn't sign the papers," Spc. Moore said. "So I started looking for other jobs, and I found this. Once I found out about the job, and I knew what I was going to be doing, I was more into joining."

He has never looked back.

"I am content with where I am right now, but I would like to learn more. I want as much knowledge as I can get with this system and other systems, if possible, so I can be the best I can possibly be," he said.

Sergeant 1st Class Kenneth Kolbeck, the Unmanned Aerial Assistance platoon sergeant, laughed as he remembered when he first met Spc. Moore.

"When I first came to the platoon [before the deployment,] Spc. Moore was a very inward person and kind of shy. Through the National Training Center [in Fort Irwin, Calif.] and gaining experience with the system, and the camaraderie with his fellow Soldiers within the platoon, he has opened up a lot more and has become quite the character," he said.

Being in the box every day isn't always interesting, but Spc. Moore and the other Soldiers have found ways to entertain themselves. For instance, they decided to give each of their aircraft nicknames, such as "Lindsey Lohan," "Miley Cyrus," "Kyle's mom," and "Whoopi Goldberg."

The names help plug some humor into their day.

"Take Miley, for example," Spc. Moore explained. "If the plane is working well, she's Miley Cyrus. But sometimes she decides she doesn't want to work perfectly. Those times, we call her Hannah Montana."

Specialist Moore said he hopes being an unmanned flight pilot is always going to be a part of his future.

"A lot of the training and the stuff I get to do is really going to affect my life if I decide to get out of the military. If I do, I am going to make this a career," he said. "This training really helps me get ready to do this as a civilian. Then I can actually train up guys who will be replacing me when I get out of this job."

The rewards of his job aren't just wishful dreams.

"[The guys on the ground] really appreciate what we do," he said. "I may sit in a box, but sometimes I may be able to let them know if there are some dudes hiding that are about to shoot them; or there could be a mortar that I saw that may save one of their lives. We may not be as in-depth as them, but even so, we have a job that really matters because we save their lives at times."

The job changes drastically in Iraq from what they do in the States, explained Sgt. 1st Class Kolbeck, a native of El Paso, Texas.

"Over here, we have a lot more work hours and a lot more responsibilities," he said. "Back in the States, we are providing surveillance for guys going out on missions armed with paintball guns or MILES (Multiple Integrated Laser Engagement System) gear. Over here, it's real life. The responsibility level of these guys, to spot the IED or the bad guy coming around the corner is tremendous."

Pvt. Emily Knitter

Specialist Mitchell Moore of 1st BSTB, 1st HBCT, 3rd ID, glances at a screen inside the ground operating station where he works every day, piloting flights around to provide video intelligence to the troops conducting missions on the ground. Moore has more than 300 hours of flight time logged during the first three months of his deployment at FOB Falcon.

Specialist Moore looks back at his screens, making sure everything is still working properly.

As the soundtrack on his iPod changes, Spc. Moore looks completely relaxed, scanning the video feed so that if something comes up, he will be there: ready to let the guys on the ground know so everyone can make it back safely, quite possibly thanks to Miley Cyrus patrolling the sky.

Local villagers witness first Afghan air assault (part 2 of 4)

This is the second installment of a four-part series from the 3rd Combat Aviation Brigade highlighting the Air Assault Academy in Afghanistan.

Spc. Monica K. Smith
3rd CAB, Task Force Falcon, Public Affairs

Photos by Capt. Jason Quash, 3rd CAB, Task Force Falcon Public Affairs

Afghan National Army Commandos wait for their Mi-17 to land after their first day of performing air assault missions, March 10, in Khanjarkhel, Afghanistan, outside of Bagram Airfield.

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan– The members of the Afghan National Security Forces Air Assault Academy executed their first air assault mission, March 10, in Qual ' Ehye Beland, Afghanistan, outside of Bagram Airfield.

The 22 Afghan National Army Commandoes spilled out of the Mi-17s securing a perimeter around the aircraft. After the Mi-17s took off, the commandos softened their tone and turned from performing an air assault to carrying out a material assistance mission.

"This was the first time that the Afghan National Army Commandos planned purely with Afghan air crews," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Chris Hinkle, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, TF Falcon, training leader for the air assault academy. "This was also the first time they performed an air assault from their own Mi-17s and the first time the commandos executed a ground tactical plan without following a U.S. Soldier. They planned it, they briefed it, and they executed it on their own."

Both the air and ground crews worked two days prior to the air assault. On the day of the mission, the Mi-17s landed and the commandos moved into the village to meet with the elders and the other villagers.

From the air, the crew chiefs watched as many of the villagers hesitantly approached the soldiers.

However, once the villagers realized the soldiers were Afghan National Army Commandos, their hesitation dissipated as the villagers began to cry and reach out to touch and talk to them.

"We just dropped the soldiers off and the people stayed away but when we landed to pick them up, we saw the people coming around the aircraft," said Abdul Wali, one of the Afghan National Army Air Corps crew chiefs. "They were proud of their Afghan brothers helping Afghanistan. They were so happy and it made me happy too."

In addition they conducted material assistance handing out radios and school supplies. The commandos spent 30 minutes on the ground talking with the local people, including children at school. They then moved to the pick-up zone and prepared for extraction.

After performing their first mission at Qual 'Ehye Beland, the ground and air teams met together to go over and discuss areas of success and improvement.

After a short break the two teams conducted their second mission of the day in Khanjarkhel, also outside of Bagram Airfield.

The second mission was identical to the first in that the commandos practiced tactical movements and then began their material assistance mission. Chief Warrant Officer Hinkle, who watched both missions from a circling Black Hawk, said he is proud of the teams and the progress they made.

"The commandos and crew chiefs integrated what they learned from their courses into the mission and performed all their duties," said Chief Warrant Officer Hinkle. "It doesn't sound that great, but it was the first time they've ever done it."

Afghan National Army Commandos work with village elders to distribute school supplies to the school children of Khanjarkhel, during their first day of performing air assault missions, March 10 outside of Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan.

92nd Chem Co preps to deploy with FTX

Sgt. Patience O. Okhuofu
3rd Sustainment Brigade PAO

The 23rd Chemical Battalion out of Fort Lewis, Wash., conducted a Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear platoon executive evaluation for the 92nd Chemical Company. This training exercise was conducted in order to prepare the Company to assume a Prepare-to-Deploy mission in the CENTCOM Area of Responsibility.

Soldiers of the 92nd Chemical Company convened at the container yard to conduct reconnaissance and decontamination of the yard, March 18.

Armed with the Multi-ray detector and the Joint Chemical Agent Detector, Staff Sgt. Michael Duncan, Spc. Nicholas Vandal and Pfc. Royce Ebanal moved diligently through the yard to identify the presence of hazardous chemical or explosives.

"The Multi-ray is used to read the oxygen level and also used to identify explosives while the JCAD (Joint Chemical Agent Detector), as the name implies is used to detect the presence of chemicals," said Maj. Jason Kerr. "With this equipment, they are able to detect hazardous material and then they send the information up to the Incident Commander."

The training exercise was conducted in two phases. Phase one had the 1st Platoon, under the supervision of 1st Lt. Johanna Miller, performing a reconnaissance to confirm or deny the presence of contamination in the Container Yard. Phase two was handled by the 4th Platoon, led by 1st Lt. Brittany Greene. Their mission was to perform field site decontamination on a contaminated CONEX in the container yard.

Phase one involved giving a quick and organized assessment of hazard that could possibly keep personnel from conducting their mission.

"Our job is to keep people safe from any type of Chemical, Biological, Radiological or nuclear hazard," said 1st Lt. Miller. "I have Soldiers who are motivated and focused on keeping everyone safe. We are constantly adapting to different situations, and at the end of the day we go home knowing that we are keeping Soldiers mission focused."

In the second phase, the Soldiers convened to determine what the safe distance was so that they could start the decontamination process.

After establishing a staging area for their vehicles and equipments, they sprayed down the contaminated CONEX.

Due to the possibility of self-contamination, decontamination was performed on the Reconnaissance and Decontamination team members who came into close contact with the contaminated CONEX.

Sgt. Patience Okhufu

A 92nd Chemical Company team member is decontaminated after coming into close contact with a contaminated CONEX during a Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear platoon executive evaluation, March 18.

"I definitely recommend this type of training to be continued," said Staff Sgt. Duncan.

"It is good for me. I've only being with the unit for about three weeks, so this is my first time working with the unit and my Soldiers in an exercise of this magnitude. It definitely gave me and my Soldiers an opportunity to get out there and work as a team and get into the groove of what we do here in Chemical. We got to know what our strengths and weaknesses are."

The training exercise culminated with the 92nd Chemical Company conducting Hazardous Response Program Operations at the Port of Savannah on March 20.

women's history month

TF Marne observes Women's History Month with luncheon

Spc. Jessica Rohr
135th MPAD, 3rd ID Public Affairs

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE SPEICHER, Iraq – Task Force Marne Soldiers conducted a luncheon in observance of Women's History Month at the Division Headquarters' foyer, March 19.

The celebration, narrated by Capt. Stacey Thompson, kicked off with the National Anthem and a prayer by Chaplain (Capt.) Christina Cogan.

An overview of women's history was read, beginning with Betty Friedan, author of "Feminine Mystique." The reading went on to state the struggles that women went through, to include women's history in the K-12 curriculum. From this momentum, a Women's History week was created in 1978 to coincide with the international Women's Day on March 8. Three years later, the United States congress passed a co-sponsored resolution establishing National Women's History Week.

In 1987, the National Women's History project requested congress to expand this observance from one week to one month. Because of this, every president since Ronald Reagan has passed proclamations recognizing March as Women's History Month.

This year's theme is "Writing Women Back into History." Five Task Force Marne Soldiers spoke about the influential women in their lives who shaped them into the Soldier they are today.

"Patricia Biank, my mother, is a great lady that I admire on so many levels. She inspired me, because she did things that were against the grain of what was expected by society and the Army," said Lt. Col. Maria Biank, G6 for 3rd Infantry Division. "My mom taught me that the value of Family is absolutely priceless. My mom taught me the value of working hard and never giving up. I am very proud of my mom and her accomplishments; she was and still is a loving mother who I consider my friend… all because of her example as Army wife, mother and nurse,"

The celebration also included a tribute to the arts and music.

Sergeant 1st Class Tara Williams sang, "I believe I can Fly" by R. Kelly, followed by a poetic presentation.

Twelve female Soldiers, from Division Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division, proclaimed "I am proud to be a woman because of the contributions," as each of them stated prominent woman in different categories such as business women Margaret Whitman, President and Chief Executive Officer of eBay from March 1998 to 2008.

A Women's History Month poem, "A Woman," expressing the strengths of a woman, was written and recited by Sgt. Tracey Masdeu, G1 section, Headquarters and Headquarters Support Company, DSTB, 3rd ID, as the 12 women resounded the phrase, "a woman."

"I was trying to encompass everything that embodies a woman," said Sgt. Masdeu. "Like her struggles to be equal, because it took so long. She didn't have the right to vote. Her place was in the home. I tried to go from there and come up with something that would be both inspirational and tell people a little bit more about women and their struggles and just the force that they are."

Fawzia Elmtalab, Iraqi medical adviser for Task Force Marne Division Surgeon, shared her early-life struggles with the Baathist Party, how she went on to become a nurse and her time in the Peshmerga Army. She currently resides in Minneapolis/ St. Paul, Minn. with her husband and three children.

Task Force Marne closed the ceremony in style. Captain Dale Sharp and Capt. Ricky Swenness, physicians assistants with the DSTB, 3rd ID, performed "Women" by John Lennon to bring the ceremony to a close.

A Women's History Month cake cutting ceremony was conducted by Maj. Gen. Tony Cucolo, Task Force Marne commanding general, Command Sgt. Maj. Jesse Andrews, Task Force Marne command sergeant major, and Task Force Marne Women's History Month ceremony participants, followed by the Dog Face Soldier song and the Army song being sung by all.

"My first impression of the observance was, it is very delightful to be here today and honor the females that are inspiring to us," said Spc. Latisha Towns, Forward Support Company, 1st Engineer Battalion, 130th Engineer Brigade. "It's an honor."

Spc. Jessica Rohr

A Women's History Month cake cutting ceremony was conducted by Maj. Gen. Tony Cucolo, Task Force Marne Commanding General; Command Sgt. Maj. Jesse Andrews, Task Force Marne Command Sergeant Major; and ceremony participants. Following the cake cutting, the Dog Face Soldier song and the Army song were sung by all during the Task Force Marne Women's History Month observance at the Division Headquarters' foyer, March 19.

SPUR RIDE

from Page 1A

The history of the Spurs goes back to the horse cavalry. Cavalrymen had to earn their spurs, and having done so, they were considered experienced riders. A trooper without spurs was a "Shave Tail" – he rode a horse with a shaved tail, a designated sign to all that the rider was a "green" cavalryman and the horse with a shaved tail was given extra space, since its rider was marked as an amateur. Soldiers underwent extensive training to earn their spurs. That tradition continues today, though in a shorter, two-to-three day test for Soldiers, according to Capt. Walker.

"It feels really good that we could come together and see what our husbands go through, day-to-day," said Genell Mazzacapo, wife of Staff Sgt. Michael Mazzacapo, who is deployed. "I think he's going to be really proud of me [for earning my spurs]."

To give the spouses that taste, the 5/7 Cav. rear detachment put the 20 brave wives through four tests, beginning with a written exam on the history of the cavalry and the unit. They then were tested in a weapons simulator, then a driving simulator. Finally, they headed down GA 119 to the leadership reaction course. There, the spouses negotiated six stations meant to test their leadership and teamwork skills. For the final task, they had to low-crawl through gooey mud to earn their spurs.

"It was cold and wet," said Mazzacapo, laughing. "But it was my favorite event."

Throughout the day as they earned their spurs, the women laughed together, worked together, and confronted challenge together, forming the kind of bond that develops between those going through similar situations.

"I take away from this camaraderie with the other spouses, who sometimes you've only seen at meetings," said Maggie Walker, wife of the 5/7 Cav. rear detachment commander. "It gave us the chance to get together, work together, and to laugh a lot. . . I think events like this need to happen more. It really boosts the morale [of the spouses], especially with so many husbands deployed, it brings us together."

In the end, the Spur Ride was about getting spouses together as a team during a time of deployment, and having them complete a task that made them feel closer to their deployed Soldiers.

"We're one big Family," said Capt. Walker. "Not only our deployed Soldiers and our experienced Soldiers; now our spouses have their spurs too. Together, everyone is going to make it through this deployment, and beyond."

Jennifer Hartwig

Lori Ficht, Lynn McNeal and Rachel Faris work together with Terri Houlahan (not pictured) to complete one of the tasks in the leadership recreation course, the final test of the 5/7 Cav. spouse's Spur Ride, March 22.